

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, April 23, 2013  
Open Session – 7:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Cahir, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.
  - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent / Principal, Dr. Davida Irving, Legal Counsel, Greg Piccirilli (arrived half way through the meeting), and FSC Secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no Public comment.
3. **Building Use Requests** – there were no building Use Requests.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open Session Minutes as presented for March 26, 2013. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.  
On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Executive Session Minutes as presented for March 26, 2013. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
5. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant # 21 dated April 5, 2013 for \$35,247.08. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager's Report* – Kelli Russ, Interim business Manager, provided the FSC with a report. Discussion. No votes were taken.
6. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
  - a. *Tri-District Strategic Plan* – Dr. Irving reported there are on-going discussions concerning strategies and overarching goals between the districts. Discussion of the Mission statement was review and on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approve the Mission Statement to read: *Our mission is to prepare each student for varying post-secondary career and college pursuits and to be a responsible and successful citizen in a diverse and global society.* Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - b. *2012-2013 Budget* – Discussion.
  - c. *2013-2014 Budget* – the FSC discussed the Town Council approving to reduce next year's budget by \$18,000, which is equivalent to 2% Health Care reduction. Discussion followed.
  - d. *Homework Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the first reading of the Homework Policy as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- e. *Health Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the second reading of the Health Policy as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- f. *Capital Projects* – the FSC discussed Capital Projects list and when they should go out to bid on many of the items. A RFP needs to be approved and then advertise the bid. Legal Counsel advised bundling all the items that need bids to save on the advertising costs. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.
- g. *NECAP* – the FSC discussed the trend of lower NECAP scores in the sixth grade and would like to discover the factors attributing to the loss. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.

## **7. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *2013-2014 Calendar* – the 2013 / 2014 School Calendar is still being discussed at the Regional level and no calendar has been approved yet. Foster schools do follow the approved Regional calendar.
- b. *Binding Arbitration Resolution* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the “Binding Arbitration Resolution”. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. *Layoff Notification Resolution* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the “Layoff Notification Resolution”. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- d. *Contract Continuation Resolution* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the “Contract Continuation Resolution”. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

## **8. Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – Dr. Irving shared with the FSC a letter/contract with/from Reichert & Son Fuel Oil, concerning the possibility of locking in to one price per gallon for the 2013-2014 school year. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.
- b. *Superintendent’s Report* - Dr. Irving shared the following:  
Science NECAP testing for fourth grade will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Dr. Irving has been working with Dr. Du on automating the phone system. However, the phone system is old and there are no upgrades available. The attendance and report cards electronically will be handled through MMS, and there will be professional development for staff through Dr. Du or Alicia Pinto at the Region. The FSC would still like to have Electronic Backpacks, where those families that have internet access would receive flyers / notices electronically through email.
  - 1) *Facilities Update* – Joe McGovern provided a report for the FSC. The State Fire Marshall has toured the school and Mr. McGovern is still waiting for his report. Mr. McGovern has had a few companies look at the chimney and is still waiting for pricing.
- c. *Future Agenda Items* –  
Robotics  
2012-2013 Budget  
2013-2014 Budget  
Capital Projects  
2013-2014 Calendar

Facilities Report - ongoing

9. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted **to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel – Job Performance, Superintendent / Principal (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to into reconvene Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson, Chair, reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Personnel – Job Performance, Superintendent/Principal were discussed. No votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “Seal” the Executive Session Minutes. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

10. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee